

# AACR 4

Office of the President  
June 9, 2009

Members, Board of Trustees:

## ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Doctor of Philosophy degree with a major in Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CIP Code 26.9999.04, PROG = GS PHD EPBI), effective in the fall 2009 semester.

Background: The proposed Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Biostatistics is a unique program which strongly emphasizes the acquisition of applied skills in the complementary fields of epidemiology and biostatistics, as well as the theoretical foundations of these disciplines. Unlike traditional doctoral preparation in either discipline alone, this program will leverage the unique collaborative environment between the Departments of Biostatistics and Epidemiology in the College of Public Health.

This is intended to be an integrative doctoral program which prepares future researchers who will have substantial methodological and quantitative preparation in the unique domains of these two disciplines. The program is intended to provide advanced, research-oriented training in both theory and methodology. Scholars will be required to undertake a doctoral dissertation, following the completion of required course work and examinations, which will be of the caliber for publication as independent research in respected biostatistical, epidemiological, or statistics journals. Graduates of this program will be prepared to address the practical challenges of conducting population-based and clinical, translational research in the multidisciplinary work environments of academia, government, and industry.

This program has the approval of the appropriate councils and University Senate, and it has completed the forty-five day review by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The provost of the university supports this recommendation.

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Action taken:     Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_